An Admonition giuen by one of the Duke of *Sauoyes Councel to his Higneſſe,*

Tending to diſſwade him from enter-*priſing againſt France.*

Tranſlated out of French, by E. A.

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An Admonition giuen by one of the *D. of Sauoyes Counſell, to his Highneſſe*: tending to diſſwade him from enterprising againſt France.

MY Lord, Sith I am borne your ſubiect, and that nature and reaſon doe binde me to ſerue and obey you: alſo that next vnto the ſeruice of God, I am to frame and direct whatſoeuer my actions and thoughts to the preſeruation of your eſtate, the greatneſſe and proſperitie thereof, and the peace and benefite of all that are likewiſe borne vnder your obedience: I can not in this late entrie into the warre which your highneſſe do begin, but bring for my part ſuch ſeruice and abilitie as I may, as well to auoide idleneſſe whileſt other are buſied, as to ſhew ſome proofe of my fidelitie, and to beare witneſſe of thoſe benefites and commodities which all your ſubiects, as alſo my ſelfe, haue hitherto receiued and made triall of vnder your gouernement. Some one will bring in his weapons and valiancie: ſome other wil contribute his coine and commodities: ſome other his arte and induſtrie: and all generally, whatſoeuer may aduaunce and ſet forward your enterpriſe. But I, contrarie to the reſt, doe come with a moſt humble admonition, conteining the moſt apparant reaſons which on a ſudden I could imagine, to withſtande and contrarie them, ſo farre as in me lieth, and peraduenture as a new Caſſandra, in fewe wordes to ſet before you, the importance and weight of that matter wherein you nowe ſhippe your ſelfe: as being ſteadfaſtly perſwaded, that by diſwading you, I ſhall doe more then all your captaines and armie, whether for your highneſſe particularly, either for the benefite and quiet of your poore ſubiects, who ſtand amazed at the motion, miſtruſt the continuance, but eſpecially doe doubt and feare ſome great miſhappe and calamitie in the ende: and indeed I might well thinke my ſelfe periured and a traitour to that ſeruice which I owe to your highneſſe, in caſe I ſhoulde not alſo contribute, and purpoſing to doe well, I ſhould not, at the leaſt, ſtay the

miſchiefe and annoiance, to my power. Your highneſſe, whether of your owne motion to extende your limittes, and by the right of good ſcituation and commoditie to appropriate vnto your ſelfe ſundrie countries, holdes and townes, ſo to purchaſe reputation, and after the example of your predeceſſours to atchieue notable and immortall memorie: either elſe by the perſwaſion and inducement of others, haue ſeiſed and gotten poſſeſsion of Rauell, Carmagnolle, and generally the whole Marquiſate of Saluces: alſo of Brianſon and ſome other fortreſſes in Daulphine: and now with the like full winde, doe thither leade a great and mightie armie, in hope to multiplie your conqueſts and annexe this prouince of Daulphine (which for the greatneſſe and importance thereof haue long ſince beene dedicated to the eldeſt ſonne of the houſe of France) to your territories of Piedmont and Sauoy. You finde all things requiſite for the intertainment of this armie, as you woulde wiſh: the hearts of your ſouldiers & men of warre well diſpoſed: your treaſurie and ſtorehouſes well furniſhed: France ſo diuided, turmoiled and fleſhed in and againſt it ſelfe, that in your owne iudgement, you haue no cauſe to feare, and, which is more, ſundrie of the greateſt and moſt mightie with weapon in hand doe call and fauor you: aſſurãce alſo of all helpe & ſuccor from the Catholike maieſtie & our holy father, whoſe authoritie, power, weapons & means, are terrible to the whole worlde: with great apparance and coniectures you foreſee a diſsipation and partition of the ſtate and crowne of France, and that euerie man will carrie away his morſell: and you preſuppoſe that you haue as good right as the reſt, as beeing ſonne and huſband to Princeſſes of the blood of Fraunce and houſe of Valois: finally mooued and led by a holy and religious intent, you purpoſe to preuent the ruine and ſubuerſion of the holie, Catholike & Apoſtolike Religion in this prouince, which is halfe baniſhed and cannot long ſubſiſt without ſpeedie remedie. Thus doe you find your purpoſe to bee both honeſt and eaſie: The ſucceſſe hitherto doeth alſo put you in great hope of as happie an ende: and that at the leaſt by the lawe of ſhipwracke and waſte, ſo much as maie lie neareſt your coaſt muſt belong to you. Theſe indeede are great and mightie motions, ſufficient to encourage the

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moſt fearefull, to ſtirre vp the leaſt ambicious and to moue euen the ſloweſt and moſt duetifull : ſithe ſuch facilitie is found to concurre with honour and commoditie : as alſo it is the cauſe of worldly matters and the naturall order of generation that ſpringeth of corruption : and in ſuch caſes eſpecially the taking holde of fitte occaſion is it that woorketh the faireſt and moſt permanent effectes. Yea, I will graunt that the Gangrene hauing ſeiſed vpon the middeſt of this great bodie (as it hath) the members and outwarde partes maie well bee cut off for the preſeruation of the reſt : But yet, if your Highneſſe will conſider and weigh ſuch reaſons, difficulties, and empeachments as are therein, I am aſſured you ſhall finde them to bee of farre greater importaunce then all that haue yet beene propounded.

Firſt, it is but too certaine that all changes from a long peace into a ſudden and great warre are moſt dangerous, the rather becauſe the peaceable perſon is leſſe trained to warre, leſſe accuſtomed to ſuffer and beare, and leſſe fit to endure anie tedious enterpriſe: and this if it be true in ſtates that are in ſtrength and power equall, which through a certaine mutuall feare doe mainteine and vpholde themſelues, much rather then among vnequall Lordſhippes, of whome the leſſer moſt looke to keepe and maintaine themſelues, rather then to enterpriſe againſt or aſſaile the greater. This is the verie lawe of nature imprinted euen in all creatures, among whom the ſmall doe yeeld to the great, and are to account it a fauour and courteſie that they bee not bruiſed and euen ſwalowed vp. Nowe therefore what proportion is there betweene your highneſſe power and the power of Fraunce : which is twentie or thirtie times greater then all that you poſſeſſe : peopled and abounding accordingly : trayned and exerciſed in warres theſe thirtie yeares continuallie ? Haue not wee (without ſeeking anie further) an example, euen of late, of the loſſe of all the landes that you poſſeſſe, as well on this ſide, as beyonde the Alpes : alſo of the extremitie whereto your late father of happie memorie was for a long time brought, onely in hauing too mightie an enemie of the Frenchman? Doe not the ſounde of the warres of Piemont, which the paſſage

of the power and troopes through this countrie ſtill ring in our eares? Is there any thing more eaſie or commodious for the French man, then to bound and limit the confines of his realme euen with the Alpes: & as it were by the way to taine and ſubdue vs? If therefore the example of your parents ruine & ouerthrow ſhould reſtraine you, much more the quiet enioying of his eſtate after hee hath recouered it, wherein himſelfe inuiolably remained, ought to inſtruct and diuert you from ſo raſh an enterpriſe. He had purchaſed (and that iuſtly) the fame to be one of the wiſeſt and moſt ſtaied princes of Europe, but eſpecially for that among ſo manie his neighbours troubles & warres, he had abſtained from warre and kept his countries in peace: and yet had great experience in warlike affaires: wanted no intelligences, or partakers in France, and ſaw it in as great diuiſions and flame of warres, as nowe it is in: and as for wealth hee hath left you ſo much as maie ſuffice to furniſh the entertainment of a verie great armie: as wiſelie foreſeeing the incertaine ende of warres, which for the moſt part are ſweete at the beginning, but difficult in the proſecution, and moſt bitter and hurtfull in the ende. Yea, and the ſame aduice and counſaile did he giue the French king nowe raigning, when at his returne out of Polelande hee paſſed through his Countrie: and for want of following it, his affaires haue had ſo badde ſucceſſe. This is and ought to bee vnto you a patterne and rule of conduct for your eſtate, which by this meanes hee hath aſſured and left vnto you, flouriſhing and full of all wealth and commoditie: his inſtructions and domeſtical precepts, proceeding of ſo great and tried a iudgement, ought with you to preuaile aboue all other either gracious or flattering counſailes. Yea, hee neuer attempted any thing againſt the Switzers, who in power are nothing equall with Fraunce, but contrariwiſe, chooſe rather to leaue and abandon vnto them part of the lands that they had vſurped vpon him, then to attempt the euents of warre againſt that ſo warlike a nation. Haue not our ſelues, and that of late yeeres, ſeene what happened to the king and kingdome of Portugall, which had ſo long flouriſhed in a happie peace, and euen in a moment is periſhed and extinct through raſh enterpriſing to aſſaile a mightier then him ſelfe vpon a vaine

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ſhew and hope, which neuertheleſſe ſeemed to be very well grounded, yea euen vpon pietie and religion.

All hiſtories are full of like examples, neither neede I any further to delate the reaſons: for in the end, if the leſſer will warre vpon the greater, he muſt doe it onely by practiſes and drifts, by corruption and rewardes, and by a politike diſcretion which the wiſeſt did alwaies practiſe: that is, ſtill to nouriſh the warres and diuiſions, if there be any: and ſtill to feede the fire, not to quench it, that they may haue neither leaſure nor power to thinke vpon any other then themſelues and for themſelues. The Catholike Maieſtie hath aboue all things very well obſerued and practiſed this remedie, yea and that ſo happely, that France, which heretofore vpon leſſe occaſion and pretence would haue inuaded and ſet foote in his lands, hath now refuſed them when they were offered: as finding it ſelfe brought to that paſſe, that it was time to imploy all endeuours to quench the fire of ciuil warres which were kindled euerie where. True it is that England, which is as mightie in reſpect of Spaine, as you in reſpect of France, hath in part returned it to him, and for theſe twentie yeares & more, haue very cunningly entertained and nouriſhed the warres in the low countries, and therby hath warranted it ſelfe from a threatned inuaſion and ruine. What els then doe you in departing from theſe domeſticall and freſh examples, other then the contrarie? You weake, doe aſſaile one ſtrong: you in peace and aſſured in your State, do hazard it to the perill of an vncertaine warre: you that hold your eſtate of France, ſtand greatly bound vnto her, and of late of meere courteſie haue receiued Sauiglian and Pignerothes, through ſo great an offence as is the aſſailing and ſeiſing vpon her townes and territories, doe incurre ſo notable a blemiſh of ingratitude, which can not be cloaked vnder whatſoeuer pretence: If iniuries and offences be aggrauated and accounted of according to the vnworthineſſe of the offender, together with the qualitie and quantitie of the offence. If wrong done to an afflicted perſon, be accounted greater then that which is done to one in proſperitie: If the miſdemeanors of parents towards parents, of friendes towards friends, of ſeruants towards their maiſters, of children towards their parents, and of ſubiectes towards

towarde their Lords, haue euermore beene accounted execrable, & they punished as paricides. With what reason or colour may your enterprise be manteined, sith you can not alledge any necessitie, or offence before giuen? But contrariewise that you leauy warre against him that had gotten all your countrie, and hath giuen it you againe: that hath bound you by oth, and hath kept it with you: whose vassall through some of your Lordships you are, and vnto whom, as vnto the mightiest, without comparison, you owe all duetie and feare. There is (said a certaine auncient) no warre iust, but that which is necessarie: but you seeke this of a iolitie, and that not without some spot of impietie and ingratitude, whether against God, who is the God of hostes, sith against your own conscience and religion, you assault a most Catholike king: whether against your honor and commoditie: either els against the peace and calamitie of your poore subiects, who can not expect any other then the miserable ruin and losse of all their goodes: for (to bee briefe) doe you thinke, that a king of France will put vp such an iniurie, at a Duke of Sauoyes hand? Either if he would, that so many princes of his bloud, so many great Lords and officers of his crowne: so many braue and couragious Captaines: so warlike nobilitie: so many townes and so much people, in whose harts and affections the *Flowre de Luce* hath taken roote so many worlds agoe, wil brooke such an inuasion, and will not speedely be reuenged, and with a miserable spoile, force and confine you into your Piedmont, and so we in these partes remaine a pray to the conquerors? What profit shall you then reape of all your conquests, except according to the prouerbe, in fishing for some small fish, to lose a golden hooke of farre greater value. What may you els haue done but quenched that fire which you should haue kindled, vnited those whom you shoulde haue set at debate, strengthened the members of a most mightie bodie, in the weakening whereof it had beene your profit to haue imploied all your industrie: In summe, ceased their warres and diuisions, the continuation whereof is your good and preseruation. It is too common a prouerbe, yet to some purpose: That dogges do often fight together, yet so soone as they spye the woolfe, they leaue their brawles, and together

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runne againſt the common enimie: ſo likewiſe brethren and kinſmen otherwiſe at ſtrife and deuided, vpon the touching of the honour of their familie and houſe, laying aſide all rancor and enimitie, or at the leaſt, deferring it, doe defende them ſelues, in and againſt all: and naturall affection ſurmounteth that which is but accidentall: the generall intereſt reclaimeth and forceth them to forget the particular. Againſt you, the conſideration of your ſmalneſſe, and the greatneſſe of the iniurie, being done in ſo wofull a time, which alwaies will be imputed to a bragge, inſolencie, and raſhneſſe, will the more prouoke all France, and breede in them a ſpeedie vnion and league: and the wiſeſt will be very glad of ſuch an occaſion to ende their diuiſions and partialities, as, ſurely there is no better way or certainer remedie againſt ciuill warres, then to ſet vppon the enemies ſubiects. We read that the Romanes being on a time at iarre, the enemie came into the towne and tooke the Capitoll, but they ſuddenly agreed to driue him away: The like did they againſt the Veients, and the princes & people of Thuſcane, who during their ciuill warres had aſſailed them, and in lieu of getting anie thing from them, remained vanquiſhed & brought into ſubiection. The like did the Spaniſh nations when they ſo farre reuolted againſt the Emperour Charles the fift, as to force the D. of Calaber to take the crowne: for beeing in armes one againſt another, king Frances the firſt ſent an armie and recouered the realme of Nauarre and Fontarabie: but the Spaniſh troubles being ſuddenly appeaſed, with one common conſent thy fell vpon the French, and driue them out of all the land that they had conquered, and neuer after thought vpon their factions and reuolts: and we ſee ordinarilie that in townes and communalties the enuies, enmities and ielouſies of particular perſons are trode vnder foote ſo ſoone as the enemie doeth appeare, and all, euen they which before would haue ſlaine each other, doe with one mind run to defend the breach.

Let vs not then deceiue our ſelues in too much flattering and reioycing in our forces and commodities, neither let vs perſwade our ſelues that the Frenchmens diuiſions are ſo rooted and grauen in them, that they cannot be ſoone taken away and appeaſed. The long cõtinuance of their miſchiefes,

the extremities of the peoples miſeries, the experience of that which is paſt, the ſmall effect of their ciuill warres theſe 25. or 30. yeres, and eſpecially theſe laſt troubles, longer and more pernitious thē the reſt, which doe as it were vndermine the verie foundations of this Monarchie and eſtate, together with the obiect of an enemie, will prouoke them to vnitie & agreement. It is well knowen that in the eſtates now aſſembled, moſt of the prouinces do require peace, that there be a great number of Catholike Lords that doe bewaile the miſeries of the eſtate, and with great impaciencie doe beare theſe ambitious commotions and proud innouations.

Would you thinke that men do iudge it to be the Catholike Maieſtie, vnder whoſe aduow, and with whoſe helpe you enterpriſe this warre, and that without ſuch aſſurance you would not meddle. The Spaniard then, the hereditarie enemie of France, is he that aſſaileth it: hee it is that ſeeketh to ſwallow vp the whole world vnder his Empire, & to become the ſole and only Monarch thereof: he it is whoſe mortal hatred is naturally grauen in euery true French hart, whoſe dominion is accounted cruell and intollerable, againſt whome the inhabitants of the low countries are reuolted, chooſing rather to venture vpon ſo manie extremities, then againe to fall vnder his dominion: and now to this Spaniſh Cornet ſhal not the French eares bee open, their haires ſtand vpright, their hands be armed, neither the hearts of ſo manie princes, Lords, gentlemen, and others, both warlike and courageous, be puffed vp with a deſire of reuenge, and the iuſt defence of their fellow citizens? or will they incurre ſo great a blemiſh of infamie and cowardlineſſe, as to ſuffer themſelues to bee wronged and prouoked by ſo weake and impatient an enemie as you? To be briefe and without diſsimulation, would the Catholike Maieſtie forſake and abandon the recouerie of his countries to the end to denoūce a new war vnto France? Hee who with all his power and ſtrength hath not beene able in twentie yeares to reduce two ſmall prouinces, Holland and *Zealand* into his obedience, and of late hath incurred ſo great and notable a loſſe of noble Spaniſh Lords, captaines, and veſſels, yea euen of his reputation in that great ouerthrow and diſsipation of his nauie, in the preparation whereof he had employed all his power for the conqueſt of England,

land, will nowe enterprise against France which hath so oft withstood him, and whose armies to his losse hee hath so often felt and tried? Againe, who is ignorant of the great practises and intelligences of the king of Portugall, whose estate hath forciblie and by violence beene deteined by the Spaniard, who hath farre more interest in the preseruation of his conquests, and greater cause to preuent the losse and reuolts thereof, then to dreame elsewhere? This consideration therefore must not amaze them, but they may be assured that hee will still employ his forces and meanes vppon his first purposes, which are more necessarie and honourable for him, besides that, it is well knowen that ordinarilie hee is crazed, and as it were in a manner at his ende: which if it should happen, his estates coulde not eschew great dissention, sedition and reuoltes, the sparkes whereof doe alreadie appeare in Spaine and elsewhere, and then will it peraduenture bee too late for you to repent your ouer rash counsels.

But admit you were assured of his succour and helpe, yet doe you not both see and heare the clashing of your neighbours the Switzers armes, who feare nothing so much as your prosperitie, and alone are sufficient to withstande you: who alreadie beginne to stirre: who doe inuite and counsaile the French to whom they are bound and confederate, to withstand your purposes, and to force you to restore and yeeld vp that which you haue vsurped: you haue of late yeeres prouoked them, and yet through their discretion and vsuall forbearance, they haue bene desirous by treaties and capitulations to bring you to peace, and to withdraw your forces, rather then to enter into a daungerous warre: they know your meanes and pretences, also that to this day they detaine the Bailiwikes from you: and that your prosperitie or power is their ruine and hinderance: and therefore you maie be sure, that for their honour and reputation, whereof they are wonderfull iealous, together with their duetie to France, they wil withstand your purposes, & being wel vnited together, will part among thē this miserable countrie, wherin your self haue no wāt of such subiects, both great & smal, as bearing you but holow harts, would gladly shake of the yoke of your obedience, so to obteine liberty, & to free themselues

from ſuch taxes and impoſitions you as haue laid vpō them. True it is that the Switzers are at iarre among them ſelues, alſo that you may haue many partakers, but the proteſtant Cantons are ſtill the ſtrongeſt, and will ſpeedely lend all aide and ſuccours to the Huguenotes of Dauiphine their neighbours, with whom they haue of long time had ordinarie familiaritie.

In the meane time, we ſhall ſee whether the tongues and pennes of the wiſer ſorte at Geneua, whoſe intereſt herein is greateſt, will be quiet: yea and in France, where there is aboundance of braue and good wits, whether they will not both in wordes and writing ſtirre vp euery true French hart againſt you and your ingratitudes, which they will exagerate, ſo that if heretofore thouſands of Lordes and gentlemen tooke vpon them the croſſe for the conquering of ſuch farre countries from the Sarazens, will they now ſuffer you to inuade their owne realme? Either will not this houſe of Bourbon, which after the kings diſceaſe that now raigneth, is called to the crowne: which alſo euermore haue brought forth ſuch warlike and valiant princes, take hart and aduice how to maintaine and preſerue that which iuſtly is their due? To be briefe, ſhall this noble bloud of France be as it were blemiſhed and tainted with ſuch cowardlineſſe and want of courage, as to ſuffer that Prouince of France which hath the particular prerogatiue and priuiledge ſtill to bee dedicated to the eldeſt ſonne of the crowne and neareſt heire thereof, be loſt and vſurped by a ſtraunger? will they not in ſuch a caſe be touched with ielouſie, and particularly with iuſt ſorrow, which may prouoke and moue them to preſerue their owne, ſith at this day the crowne returneth to them: I ſpeake generally, leauing all queſtions of law, and election of perſons, and cleaue onely to the Salicque fondamentall law, inuiolably obſerued by the French, who aboue all nations haue euermore beene highly commended and renowned for their moſt faithfull obedience & loue to their kinges and the princes of their bloud.

Together with the Switzers, the State of Venice, and the Duke of Mantua, who aboue all other doe feare the mightineſſe of the Spaniard and you, and are moſt deſirous of the reeſtabliſhment and preſeruation of the State of France, will

will not faile to admoniſh the French king of the conſequence and importance of your enterpriſes, and, if need be, to contribute and enter confederacie for the hindering and breaking of them off.

Thus of all your pretences and apparent inductions there remaineth no more but your intelligences and partakers, which you may haue in France, togither with the Catholike Apoſtolike, and Romiſh Religion, to the vpholding whereof, you take all faithfull Princes and Chriſtians to be called and bound: How then? Who is more inclined, more bent, or more earneſtly giuen thereto, then the French king nowe reigning, who vnder the reigne of his brother Charles, emploied all his youth therein, and hath tried all wayes & forces, ſecretly and openly, and all clemencie, for the rooting out of the contrarie religion, and euen now for the ſame end holdeth his eſtates? who alſo is ſo deſirous to compaſſe it, that hee hath forgotten all particular friendſhip and hatred, and is purpoſed and reſolued vpon no other thing, to the end afterward moſt happilie to end his dayes. This notwithſtanding, hee is ſtill king, hee is endued with great gifts of the minde, and zealous of his honour: and as all other men, hee is capable of iuſt ſorow when hee is prouoked and offended: will he then ſuffer his memorie to bee taxed in all poſteritie and ſpotted with ſuch ignominie, as to ſuffer the Duke of Sauoy to bereaue him of the Marquiſate of Saluces, and therein to rauiſh and take from him all tokens, reliques and monuments of the kings his predeceſſours conqueſts in the realme of Naples and prouince of Italie? To ſeiſe vpon Carmagnolles the Arſenoll of France? Now euen during his life to take an othe of fidelitie of his ſubiects, and to cauſe himſelfe to be acknowledged as Lorde, diſpatching all things in his owne name? And afterwarde by force of armes to enter his Realme, and to put garriſon into his townes.

In thoſe extremities which vndoubtedly doe oppreſſe him, he will haſten againſt him that diſmembreth his eſtate, and as alreadie he hath ſundrie times experimented, he will grant peace to his ſubiects, rather then in his dayes ſee his garments rent in ſunder. So in the time of king Charles, in the yeare 1562. the troubles ceaſed almoſt as ſoone as the Engliſh ſet foote in France, and had gotten Newhauen; and

his ſubiects agreed together to fall vpon the common enemie. True it is, that his princes, nobilitie, townes & communalties are now at greater diuiſion, and more fleſhed each againſt other then they were then: that now there is more in their power and poſſeſsion which helpe you, and togither with you do purpoſe the ſharing of this realme. That theſe Lords your partakers are as it were maſters of the ſtate, and haue the ſtrength and Metropolitane towne of the realme in their hãds: That it is vnpoſsible to reunite the harts that are thus alienated, and to regenerate and reduce into the hearts of the princes of the blood & mightie Catholike Lords, princes, gentlemen and ſubiects of the contrarie part, which are many, a confidence and loue of their king, and therefore the fire which ſtill ſhall be kindled in the heart of the realme, wil greatly let them from being able to ſuccour the outwarde bounds. But what? The king, who by force & at the inducement of his Lords, once made an edict of reunion with them, whereby they be bound to abandon all leagues and aſſociations either within or without the realme, being (as he is) dulie aduertiſed of your intelligences with them, of the portion that they graunt you of Prouince and D'aulphine, ſo as you alſo bind your ſelfe to expell thoſe of the contrarie religion, and afterwarde to helpe them with your power and meanes, to make them likewiſe maſters of their parts & portions. The king, I ſay, who beſides infinite others hath receiued two iniuries and diſpleaſures: this, the moſt ſhamefulleſt that euer Prince receyued: namely, to bee expelled out of his ſeate, the Parliament and principall towne of his realme, and afterwarde to be ſo farre iniuried as to be driuen to thruſt from about him his moſt auncient and moſt faithfull ſeruaunts and officers of the Crowne, to the ende him ſelfe to bee ſerued and poſſeſſed by them, not that hee choſe but that were preſcribed and preſented vnto him: ſhall hee not both iuſtlie and honeſtlie goe from anie othe or woorde that hee maie haue promiſed vnto them without breach of fayth and promiſe? Shall not the Princes of the blood, the officers of the Crowne, the Parliaments, Nobilitie and Townes, the moſte whereof doe ſee and knowe the euident inconueniences and domages of the continuation of the warres, admoniſh him to ſtay no longer

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in this ſo ſtraunge bondage, but to ridde and free himſelfe from this tyrannie of theſe maiſters of the Palace: to whoſe paſsions and ambitions hee is vtterly ſubiect. To be briefe, ſhall not the States, which repreſent the ſoundeſt part of the Realme, and are aſſembled togither to preuent the calamities and ruines which threaten it, ſeeing ſo great a miſchiefe to happen during their aſſemblie, conclude vppon a mutuall confederacie agaynſt the authours thereof and all forreine enemies? Either ſhall not the king togither with them call to minde their originall aduauncement, and progreſsion, togither with the bondes wherein they are bound to Fraunce, which in the meane time they nowe rent in ſunder and diſmember? Theſe children be they not worſe then their fathers, who with the like tyrannous ambition poſſeſſed and brideled king Frances the ſecond, & vnder his name and authoritie, did enterpriſe to put to death the chiefe princes of the blood of France, and fathers to the princes now liuing, albeit neither acknowledged, neither mainteined in their degrees and dignities vnto them due? Be not theſe they who through their ſleights, haue alwayes mainteyned the warres of France, & had intelligence with the king of Spain, the ſworne enemie of France, and of late receyued his coine, ſought to deliuer Marſeilles & diuers places into his hands: ſolicited the Prince of Parma with his Spaniſh power to enter into Fraunce, and to make warre vppon their king, that hath ſo rayſed and exalted them, that nowe they goe about to abaſe himſelfe, whome they haue forced contrarie to all lawe both of God and man, and contrarie to all order in Fraunce, to name a ſucceſſour: at this day doe forciblie detaine diuerſe great Townes and Caſtels, yea euen the principall Citie of the Realme, and vſe all thoſe reaſons whereof your diſcouerie ſhall furniſh a verie large campe? Shall not the king and princes awake out of their ſlumber and ſleepe, to the ende to ſee and iudge what is prepared for them? I can not denie but there bee paricides in Realmes and Empires: alſo that the wofull and heauie deſtinie doe ſeeme to thruſt and hale Fraunce to her ende: Neuertheleſſe, were they no more but the king of Nauarres faction that withſtoode you in Daulphine or elſe where, I ſay and aduowe that they are more then enowe

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to thruſt you backe into Piedmont, and to make you returne with ſhame and loſſe. Theſe thirtie yeares well neare haue the French kings employed all their power and ſtrength, which were without compariſon greater then at this day, and better vnited, againſt them: yet ſee we them ſtill ſhoote vp againe and encreaſe more then euer, namely ſince the laſt commotions in *France*, they haue taken more towns, woonne more battels, fortified more holdes, and more ſtrengthened their partie then before: you are therefore to conſider particularly againſt which part of them you bende your ſelfe: viz. to thoſe that are ſtrong in townes, & multitude of warlike gentrie, if there be anie throughout the world, yea, and furniſhed with captaines of more experience: that is, thoſe that tooke Montlimart, Ambrune, Die, Cap, and ſundrie other: that defeated the armie of the Lord of Vins, and another at Montlimar, that inhabite a countrie by nature ſtrong, of acceſſe difficult, for ambuſhes and ſtratagemes, wherin they are moſt excellent, verie conuenient: and that at need ſhall be ſuccoured by their neighbors of Languedoc. Repoſe not therefore ſo much truſt in the promiſes and power of your partakers, who with a good wil, wil helpe themſelues with your means, men, and money, to eſtabliſh their power and authoritie, whoſe behauiours doe alreadie make them odious and miſliked of the moſt part of *France*, which ſigheth and groneth vnder the calamities that are ſprung out of their ambition. The king now reigning is no elder then they, whoſe ſpeedie ende wee are neither to feare, neither to hope for: if it ſhould happen alſo, that all good French Catholikes ſhould feare to fal into the obedience of a prince of contrarie religion, yet the continuance of the calamities and miſchiefs that vndermine them: the long proofe and tedious experience of the inabilitie of force and violence to force the minds to beleeue other then they would: the examples of the Germains and Switzers, which notwithſtanding the pluralitie of religions doe liue peaceably inough: and the aſſurance that they haue of the clemencie and mildneſſe of the king of Nauarre, who is he that chalẽgeth to be preſumptiue heire and eldeſt of the crowne, will ſtill draw them to acknowledge him, and to yeeld vnto him the duties of faithfull and obedient ſubiects, rather then to ſtoupe to the dominion of theſe new and

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forraine princes. They know the king of Nauarre to be gentle and mercifull, naturally not to be ambitious or a tyrant: they are not ignorant how often he hath desired and requested to be instructed by a free counsell: that hee is a prince of his faith and word, and that by force and constraint hee was driuen and compelled to take weapon, which he now hath in hande, whose equitie hath appeared in the happie successe that God hath giuen him against the armies of the Duke of Maine, the Marshall of Biron, and the Duke of Ioieuse, who thought to haue deuoured and swallowed him vp, yet hath he still had the victorie. If then with these vertues and perfections farre different from the cruelties and tragicall passions of his enemies, he get the crowne, what are you to hope or feare of so warlike a Prince? So sore bent against the Catholike Maiestie, which detaineth his kingdome, and so well beloued among your neighbors the Switzers? Cõsider therefore earnestly that the shortest follies are the best: that then your partakers shall be but small warrant vnto you, sith they no whit subsist of their owne forces, but of other mens onely, and that with so extreeme violence as it cannot continue: for in the ende what foundation haue they of their power, other then of a broken reede: of the mutable minds of inconstant people, which forsake him whom before they fauoured so soone as they see his good hap abandon him, yea, and that doe not onely forsake him, but for the most part driue away, punish, or most shamefully murther him. Such there haue bin both in Athens and Rome, and being this day exalted to the heauens, haue bene to morow banished and cast down headlong. And alredie it is verie likely that the Parisians wil shortly shake off that yoke which a while they thought so sweete, because they see themselues depriued of the presence of their king, which bred their great commoditie and profite, vpon the ceasing whereo fwill also cease their amitie and good will that they bare to the procurers of the ceasing of their profit and traficke. The same people (and iustly) doe feare the indignation of their king whom they haue offended, and who is iustly wroth against them: as also they may iudge that hee dissembleth his wrath for a season, and that for this present he is cõtent with this punishment viz. That he will not come at Paris. Euen this onely reason alreadie breedeth a repen-

tance in the Parisians hearts, and a hatred of the authours, who haue offended and prouoked against themselues a number of the principall, the richest, & the best alied inhabitants. How will it be when the king shall so manifestly reueale his hatred, that hee shall take from them part of the extent of their Parliament (as is alreadie forecast) of the chamber of accounts of aides and other iurisdictions which are the cause that Paris is maintained in such resort & greatnesse? How wil it be when openly he shall bend himselfe against them, and take from them (as he may) so manie priueledges which by the kings his predecessors haue beene graunted them, and by himselfe confirmed? How will it be, when they shall peraduenture see themselues brought into like estate, as at this day are Gaunt, Lisbourne, Dijeon, and manie other townes heretofore most flourishing? Shall they not then remember that it is becausse of their rebellions? Shall they not call to minde that the authours of the miseries of France, are also the authours of the miseries of Paris, and of all the countrie round about which is vtterly vndone, ruinated and wasted alreadie? Alreadie they taste and know that the ciuill warres haue debarred them of halfe their traficke, haunt and concourse of people, and most of them doe curse the authours. Other townes by them detained, which also doe proue the like miseries, yea, and farre greater, which are subdued by Citadels and great garrisons, will after the example of Paris, seeke after alteration of gouernours & their former libertie.

If at this day the king shew them anie fauour, yet is it a question whether it be but in appearance, or in truth, considering what offences and iniuries they haue wrought him: so that, albeit for a while he dissemble, yet he will find a time when to punish them, euen so soone as he shall see time and oportunitie: and then shall you be destitute of all such support, as you hoped of, for the defence of your wrongfull enterprise: But admit they obtaine that fauour in deede and without dissimulation, yet can you bee assured that it will continue? Men are in all things variable, and especiallie in amities, and among men, the greatest are so when they perceiue that his greatnesse whom they fauour may be hurtfull and preiudiciall to their owne estate: for there is nothing so subiect to iealousie as dominion; For that doe men forsake

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all diuinitie and humanitie: and gouernement can brooke no companion.

Againe, the manifeſt diuiſion among them ought to ſtay, yea vtterlie to breake off your enterpriſe, ſith it is but ouer likely that their particular quarels will ſufficientlie debarre them from helping of others: further that within theſe three yeares they haue vſed and layde all their endeuours, and haue fought, yet could not attaine to inuade the Duke of Bouillons ſouereigne territories, whereof they bee at this day in extreeme anguiſh. Their behauiour doe ſufficientlie ſhew it. Hardly could they finde one generall to vndertake the conduct of their armie into Poytou: They are extremelie indebted, vrged and tormented by their creditors: They owe more then they are woorth, and that is the cauſe that they hazard, not their owne, but France: They haue procured the king of Nauarre to be moued to accorde, which if they could obteine, they would thinke themſelues reaſonablie ſafe: and when their enterpriſes ſhall bee (as it is verie likelie) brought to nought, themſelues ſhall withall fall euen groueling to the ground. Here you ſee the pillars and bulwarkes of your enterpriſe. Contrariwiſe, the king of Nauarre is grounded vpon a match made long ſince of great patrimoniall goods: of the lawe of France, which calleth him before all others to the crowne, and eſpecially of an incredible loue of his ſubiects, and all other his followers, which is the faireſt and mightieſt fortreſſe that princes may haue, and which maketh their memorie moſt famous and happie with the poſteritie: He is, I ſay, like vnto a ſecond Traian euen among the Catholikes, beloued, no leſſe for his goodneſſe and clemencie, then for his valiancie.

Thus in my opinion I haue ſufficiently anſwered concerning the pretence of Religion which they might make you take hold of, which alſo beareth more ſemblance then truth, how much wiſelier haue your late father and your ſelfe dealt in forbearing forciblie, and by conſtraint to reclaime your poore inhabitants of the valley of Angrongne and other their neighbours, who neuertheleſſe are but one handfull of people in reſpect of theſe of Daulphine whome you doe aſſaile. Content your ſelfe therefore with the ſame eſtate wherin hither to your ſelfe, and before you your late father found

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eaſe. For vnder what colour would you at this day, in a forreine land, fight againſt a Religion which theſe thirtie yeares haue beene tollerated in your owne Countries. Rather bee you a beholder of the ſtorme that beateth and tormenteth the ſea of France: expect the iſſue of that tragedie: either, if you bee ſo deſirous to purchaſe reputation, conuert your meanes and forces towarde your father in lawe the king of Spaine, for the recouerie of the low Countries: and, reſembling the phiſition, which comming to the ende of the ſickeneſſe, is vſually the happieſt, and carieth away the credite of the cure, ſith the Duke of Alua, the great commaunder, and the prince of Parma could not yet atchieue the victorie, get you the honour of finiſhing it: ſo doing you ſhall trauaile in a better title, and your weapons ſhall bee more honourablie and better employed, beſides that you ſhall not incurre the vice and reputation of ingratitude to your benefactors: you ſhall warrant your poore ſubiects from the affliction and oppreſsion that warres doe vſuallie bring. And if zeale of Religion doth lead and ſo mightilie mooue you, you may there fight againſt contrarie Religions which haue beene long there, and are in diuerſe points different from yours. There ſhall you find the Engliſh, againſt whom the Catholike Maieſtie is at open warre, who durſt fauor and vndertake the protection of the Hollanders and Zealanders, who firſt offering themſelues to the French king (who was more religious and carefull in keeping his league and peace with Spaine) were refuſed. For my part I will pray vnto the Creator for the proſperitie and encreaſe of your highneſſe, as

Your moſt humble and moſt obedient ſubiect and ſeruant.

ADVISE, GIVEN BY A CATHOlike Gentleman, to the Nobilitie & Commons of France, to ioyne together, and take armes ſpeedily (by commandement of the King) againſt theeues and robbers, which are now abroade ruining the poore people: Setting downe an order and policie how they ſhould take armes, to auoide all diſorder and confuſion amongſt them.

Whereunto is adioyned,

A declaration publiſhed by the Duke de Mont-pencier for the reclaiming of the Cleargie and Nobilitie of Normandie, vnto his Maieſties obedience, &c.

With certaine newes of the ouerthrow of the Gautiers, and diuerſe other rebels againſt the French King, by the ſaid Duke of Mont-pencier, on the ſixt, and on the twentieth daie of Aprill.

1589.

Tranſlated out of the French into Engliſh, by I. Eliote.

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